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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 MC-02 AID-05 IGA-02
OMB-01 TRSE-00 ARA-06 EB-07 /108 W
----------110004Z 124960 /63
R 101738Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8156
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KIGALI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08084

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UG, UR
SUBJECT: UGANDAN-SOVIET RELATIONS

THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS PASSED US THE FOLLOWING REPORT (FRG NO. 187) FROM THE FRG CHARGE IN KAMPALA. INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. DURING A BRIEFING ON AMIN'S VISIT WITH MOBUTU, THE ZAIRIAN CHARGE INFORMED ME CONFIDENTIALLY THAT AMIN INDICATED TO MOBUTU THAT HE WISHED TO LOOSEN THE ONE-SIDED DEPENDENCE OF THE UGANDAN ARMY ON RUSSIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE HAD IN MIND SENDING A DELEGATION TO EGYPT TO NEGOTIATE THE DISPATCH OF EGYPTIAN MIG PILOTS TO UGANDA. IF THESE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD CONCLUDE POSITIVELY, HE WOULD REQUEST THE WITHDRAWAL OF RUSSIAN MIG PILOTS AND OTHER RUSSIAN MILITARY ADVISORS.
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2. ACCORDING TO THE ZAIRIAN CHARGE, MOBUTU WELCOMED THE ANNOUNCED LOOSENING OF UGANDA'S ONE-SIDED MILITARY BOND WITH THE RUSSIANS. MOBUTU IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE PROMISED AMIN EVERY SUPPORT IN ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE AND, PARTICULARLY, UNDERTOOK TO INTERCEDE IN AMIN'S BEHALF WITH THE EGYPTIANS TO ACHIEVE AMIN'S REQUEST.

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3. IN THIS REGARD, IT SEEMS NOTEWORTHY THAT AMIN EXPRESSED HIS APPREHENSION TO THE ZAIRIAN CHARGE DURING THE FLIGHT TO KINSHASA THAT UGANDANS-IN-EXILE WERE CURRENTLY BEING TRAINED BY CUBANS IN TANZANIA AND THAT THEY WERE PREPARED FOR AN INVASION OF UGANDA.

4. I CANNOT SAY WITH CERTAINTY WHETHER AMIN'S STATE-MENTS WHICH THE ZAIRIAN CHARGE SHARED WITH ME REFLECT SPONTANEOUSLY FORMULATED PLANS, WHICH AMIN WILL "FORGET" AFTER ASCERTAINING THEM TO BE UNREALISTIC OR EVEN INEXPEDIENT, OR WHETHER AMIN IS REALLY MAKING PREPARATIONS AIMED AT SLACKENING HIS ONE-SIDED RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS. IN THIS REGARD, THE FOLLOWING CAN BE CONFIRMED, WITH RESERVATIONS.

5. WEIGHING IN FAVOR OF THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS AMIN'S EVIDENT AND GROWING IRRITATION WITH THE RUSSIANS. THIS WAS RECENTLY MADE APPARENT WHEN PODGORNY BY-PASSED UGANDA ON HIS VISIT TO AFRICA. BEYOND THAT, AMIN APPARENTLY HARBORS FEARS ABOUT THE AGGRESSIVE ADVANCES BY THE RUSSIANS IN THE RED SEA AND ALSO IN THE REGION OF THE FRONT LINE STATES. POSSIBLY, AMIN ALSO FEARS THAT THE RUSSIANS COULD SEEK TO REPLACE HIM WITH A MORE MOSCOW-ORIENTED SUCCESSOR IF THEY WOULD VIEW HIM AS AN "UNSTEADY CANDIDATE." AMIN'S OBSERVATION TO THE

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----------110003Z 124983 /63

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 08084

ZAIRIAN CHARGE ABOUT UGANDAN EXILES BEING TRAINED BY
CUBAN TROOPS POINTS IN THIS DIRECTION.

6. ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, WHICH AMIN TRACES BACK TO
UGANDA'S ISOLATED POSITION AS A "LANDLOCKED COUNTRY,"
GIVE HIM CAUSE TO STRIVE FOR INCREASING ECONOMIC COOP-
ERATION WITH THE NEIGHBORING STATES OF SUDAN, KENYA,
RUANDA, AND ZAIRE. CORRESPONDING PLANS, WHICH AMIN
DISCUSSED WITH THE CABINET IN DETAIL LAST WEEKEND, WERE
REPEATED IN A GREAT PRODUCTION ON THE OFFICIAL "VOICE
OF UGANDA" ON APRIL 25. THE REALIZATION OF THESE
PLANS WILL, IN ANY CASE, DEPEND ON AMIN'S ACCOM-
MODATING HIS GENERAL POLITICAL ALIGNMENT TO THAT OF THE MORE
PRO-WESTERN STATES AND AT LEAST SLACKENING THE ONE-
SIDED MILITARY CONNECTION WITH THE RUSSIANS. AMIN
IN THESE CONSULTATIONS STRESSED EXPLICITLY THAT UGANDA
WOULD STRIVE TO AVOID EVERY ONE-SIDED
OBLIGATION TO ANY POWER BLOC.
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7. THE EMBASSY LEAVES IT TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S
DISCRETION TO INFORM THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BONN
CONFIDENTIALLY ABOUT THE ABOVE. I HAD THE IMPRESSION
THAT THE ZAIRIAN CHARGE, WHO SOUGHT ME OUT, WOULD NOT
FIND IT UNSUITABLE WERE THE CONTENTS OF THE DISCUSSION
TO BE PASSED ON CAREFULLY.

END TEXT.
STOESSEL

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